

What is claimed is:

1. A remote control device for a digital video recorder, the remote control device comprising:

5 a wireless receiver for receiving a list of television programs from the digital video recorder;

an integrated display screen for displaying the list to a user;

a plurality of user controls for controlling the digital video recorder, at least one user control for receiving a selection of a listed television program; and

10 a wireless transmitter for transmitting the selection to the digital video recorder to initiate recording or playback of the selected television program.

2. The remote control device of claim 1, wherein the list of television programs comprises an electronic program guide (EPG).

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3. The remote control device of claim 2, wherein the EPG includes a listing of television programs available on at least one channel during at least one time slot.

4. The remote control device of claim 2, wherein at least one user control is specifically-designated for displaying the EPG on the display screen of the remote control device.

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4. The remote control device of claim 1, wherein the list comprises an electronic program guide (EPG) including television programs broadcast on a particular channel for a plurality of time slots.

5 5 The remote control device of claim 1, wherein the list comprises a play list including television programs recorded by the digital video recorder and available for playback.

6. The remote control device of claim 5, wherein at least one user control is specifically-designated for displaying the play list on the display screen of the remote control device.

7. The remote control device of claim 1, wherein the list comprises a recording list including television programs scheduled to be recorded by the digital video recorder.

8. The remote control device of claim 7, wherein at least one user control is specifically-designated for displaying the recording list on the display screen of the remote control device.

9. The remote control device of claim 1, wherein at least one user control is configured to receive a user command to record the selected television program,

and wherein the wireless transmitter is further configured to transmit the user command to the digital video recorder.

10. The remote control device of claim 1, wherein at least one user control is
5 configured to receive a user command to play back the selected television program, and wherein the wireless transmitter is further configured to transmit the user command to the digital video recorder.

11. The remote control device of claim 1, wherein at least one user control is
10 configured for navigating the list of television programs to indicate the selection, and wherein at least one control is configured for initiating transmission of the selection to the digital video recorder.

12. The remote control device of claim 1, wherein at least one user control is
15 specifically designated to initiate immediate recording of a listed television program.

13. The remote control device of claim 1, wherein the display screen comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

20 14. A system for digital video recording and playback comprising:

a digital video recorder comprising:

a wireless transmitter for transmitting a list of television programs to a remote control device;

a wireless receiver for receiving a selection of a listed television program from the remote control device; and

a recording and playback subsystem for selectively recording or playing back the selected television program; and

5 a remote control device for the digital video recorder comprising:

a wireless receiver for receiving the list of television programs from the digital video recorder;

an integrated display screen for displaying the list to a user;

10 a plurality of user controls for controlling the digital video recorder, at least one user control for receiving a selection of a listed television program from the user; and

a wireless transmitter for transmitting the selection to the digital video recorder to initiate recording or playback of the selected television program.

15 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the recording and playback subsystem comprises:

an encoder for digitally encoding a television program in a compressed format;

a mass storage device for storing the encoded television program;

20 a decoder for decoding a television program retrieved from the mass storage device; and

a display controller displaying the decoded television program on an external device.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the digital video recorder is integrated with a set top box (STB) for an interactive television system.

5 17. The system of claim 14, wherein the digital video recorder further comprises:
a network interface for receiving television programs from a distribution network.

10 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the distribution network comprises a cable television network.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the distribution network comprises a direct satellite broadcast (DBS) network.

15 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the network interface is further configured to receive the list of television programs from the distribution network.

21. The system of claim 14, wherein the list of television programs comprises an electronic program guide (EPG).

20 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the EPG includes a listing of television programs available on at least one channel during at least one time slot.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein at least one user control is specifically-designated for displaying the EPG on the display screen of the remote control.

5 24. The system of claim 14, wherein the list comprises a play list including television programs recorded by the digital video recorder and available for playback.

10 25. The system of claim 24, wherein at least one user control is specifically-designated for displaying the play list on the display screen of the remote control.

26. The system of claim 14, wherein the list comprises a recording list including television programs scheduled to be recorded by the digital video recorder.

15 27. The system of claim 26, wherein at least one user control is specifically-designated for displaying the recording list on the display screen of the remote control.

20 28. The system of claim 14, wherein at least one user control is configured to receive a user command to record the selected television program, and wherein the wireless transmitter is configured to transmit the user command to the digital video recorder.

29. The system of claim 14, wherein at least one user control is configured to receive a user command to play back the selected television program, and wherein the wireless transmitter is configured to transmit the user command to the digital video recorder.

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30. The system of claim 14, wherein at least one user control is configured for navigating the list of television programs to indicate the selection, and wherein at least one control is configured for initiating transmission of the selection to the digital video recorder.

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31. The system of claim 14, wherein at least one user control is specifically designated to initiate immediate recording of a listed television program.

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32. The system of claim 14, wherein the display screen comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

33. A method in a remote control device for controlling a digital video recorder, the method comprising:

receiving a list of television programs from the digital video recorder;

displaying the list on a display screen integrated with the remote control device;

receiving a user selection of a listed television program; and

transmitting the selection to the digital video recorder to initiate recording or playback of the selected television program.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the list of television programs comprises an
5 electronic program guide (EPG).

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the EPG includes a listing of television programs available on at least one channel during at least one time slot.

10 36. The method of claim 33, wherein the list comprises a play list including television programs previously recorded by the digital video recorder.

37. The method of claim 33, wherein the list comprises a recording list including television programs scheduled to be recorded by the digital video recorder.

15 38. The method of claim 33, further comprising:

receiving a user command to record the selected television program; and
transmitting the user command to the digital video recorder.

20 39. The method of claim 33, further comprising:
receiving a user command to play back the selected television program; and
transmitting the user command to the digital video recorder.

40. A method for digital video recording and playback comprising:

within a digital video recorder:

transmitting a list of television programs to a remote control device;

receiving a selection of a listed television program from the remote

control device;

recording the selected television program in response receiving a first user command from the remote control device; and

playing back the selected television program in response to receiving a second user command from the remote control device; and

within the remote control device:

receiving the list of television programs from the digital video recorder;

displaying the list on a display screen integrated with the remote control device;

receiving a selection of a listed television program from a user;

receiving a user command to record or play back the selected television program; and

transmitting the selection and the user command to the digital video recorder to initiate recording or playback of the selected television program.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein recording comprises:

encoding a television program in a compressed format; and

storing the encoded television program in a mass storage device.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein the digital video recorder is integrated with a set top box (STB) for an interactive television system.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein playing back comprises:

5 retrieving an encoded television program from a mass storage device;
decoding the encoded television program; and
displaying the decoded television program on an external device.

44. The method of claim 40, further comprising:

10 within the digital video recorder:
receiving television programs from a distribution network.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the distribution network comprises a cable television network.

15 46. The method of claim 44, wherein the distribution network comprises a direct satellite broadcast (DBS) network.

47. The method of claim 44, further comprising:

20 within the digital video recorder:
receiving the list of television programs from the distribution network.

48. The system of claim 40, wherein the list of television programs comprises an electronic program guide (EPG).

49. The system of claim 48, wherein the EPG includes a listing of television
5 programs available on at least one channel during at least one time slot.

50. The system of claim 40, wherein the list comprises a play list including television programs previously recorded by the digital video recorder.

10 51. The system of claim 14, wherein the list comprises a recording list including television programs scheduled to be recorded by the digital video recorder.

52. A remote control device for a digital video recorder, the remote control device comprising:

15 means for receiving a list of television programs from the digital video recorder;

means for displaying the list to a user;

means for receiving user commands for controlling the digital video recorder;

means for receiving a user selection of a television program from the list; and

20 means for transmitting the selection to the digital video recorder to initiate recording or playback of the selected television program.

53. A system for digital video recording and playback comprising:

a digital video recorder comprising:

means for transmitting a list of television programs to a remote control device;

means for receiving a selection of a listed television program from the remote control device; and

means for selectively recording and playing back the selected television program; and

a remote control device for the digital video recorder comprising:

means for receiving the list of television programs from the digital video recorder;

means for displaying the list to a user;

means for receiving user commands for controlling the digital video recorder;

means for receiving a user selection of a listed television program from the list; and

means for transmitting the selection to the digital video recorder to initiate recording or playback of the selected television program.